

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Canceled).
2. (Canceled).
3. (Canceled).
4. (Canceled).
5. (Canceled).
6. (Canceled).
7. (Currently Amended) A method, comprising:
  - transmitting over a packet data network information pertaining to an incoming call indicative of telephony monitoring and control functions from an application computer to a gatekeeper, the application computer being located separately from any of at least two nodes of the packet data network;
  - routing the incoming call through the gatekeeper to connect to a selected endpoint of the packet data network according to established rules;
  - informing the application computer of an identity of the incoming caller;
  - providing to a user information relating to the incoming caller; and
  - causing the packetized telephone communications session between the at least two nodes of the packet data network to occur.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7, further comprising:  
determining the subject matter of the incoming call and obtaining  
information relating to that subject matter; and  
displaying information relating to the caller and to the subject matter.
9. (Original) The method of claim 8, further comprising enabling a user to access  
additional information relating to the caller and/or the subject matter.
10. (Original) The method of claim 7, further comprising utilizing indicia from the  
incoming call to identify the caller.
11. (Original) The method of claim 10, utilizing the caller's telephone number to  
identify the caller.
12. (Original) The method of claim 7, displaying information on a monitor or the like  
that is accessible to a user.
13. (Original) The method of claim 7, further comprising obtaining information from  
the incoming caller and providing the obtained information to a user.
14. (Original) The method of claim 13, further comprising:  
assigning an identifier for the incoming call; and

caching the incoming call in combination with the obtained information and the call identifier for later retrieval.

15.     (Original) The method of claim 14, further comprising:

        retrieving and forwarding the incoming call and the obtained information to a user.

16.     (Canceled).

17.     (Canceled).

18.     (Canceled).

19.     (Canceled).

20.     (Canceled).

21.     (Canceled).

22.     (Canceled).

23.     (Canceled).

24.     (Currently Amended) An article or set of articles comprising a computer readable

        medium having instructions stored thereon which when executed causes:

        transmitting over a packet data network information pertaining to an incoming call indicative of telephony monitoring and control functions from an application computer to a gatekeeper, the application computer being located separately from any of at least two nodes of the packet data network;

        routing an incoming call through the gatekeeper to connect to a selected endpoint

of the packet data network according to established rules;

informing the application computer of an identity of the incoming caller;

providing to a user information relating to the incoming caller; and

causing the packetized telephone communications session between the at least two nodes of the packet data network to occur.

25. (Original) The article or set of articles of claim 24 wherein the instructions also cause information regarding subject matter of the incoming call to be obtained and displayed.

26. (Original) Apparatus comprising:

an applications computer to provide a user information relating to the incoming caller of telephone calls transmitted over a packet-switched data network under its control; and

a gatekeeper to establish telephone calls over the packet-switched data network, and to receive instructions from, and send messages to, the applications computer, said messages indicating at least the identity of an incoming caller.

27. (Original) The apparatus of claim 26 wherein plural applications computers are configured to issue instructions to a single gatekeeper.

28. (Original) The apparatus of claim 27, wherein the gatekeeper establishes the telephone calls between at least two endpoints in the data network.

29. (Original) The apparatus of claim 28, wherein the applications computer is arranged to extract additional information from the caller, and to present this information to a user.
30. (Original) The apparatus of claim 29, where the information is presented to a user via a monitor or other display device.
31. (Original) The apparatus of claim 30, wherein the applications computer is further arranged to communicate with the caller and the user via voice recognition and voice synthesis techniques.
32. (Original) The apparatus of claim 31, wherein the user is a called party.
33. (Original) The apparatus of claim 32, wherein said applications computer is configured to instruct a gatekeeper to initiate a call, and to await a message from said gatekeeper to complete the call.
34. (Original) The apparatus of claim 33, wherein the gatekeeper is programmed to inform the applications computer when information regarding the identity of the calling party is acquired.